ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE, TREASURER AND CLERK

OF THE

NORTH EASTON VILLAGE DISTRICT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1909

W. B. MASON PRINT
MASONIC BUILDING 52 CENTRE STREET
BROCKTON, MASS.

OFFICERS

OF

North Easton Village District

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING APRIL 1, 1909

WATER COMMISSIONERS

WILLIAM H. AMES, Term expires 1909
CYRUS LOTHROP, Term expires 1910
OLIVER AMES, Term expires 1911

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

DAVID J. O'CONNELL JOHN J. McCARTHY
CORNELIUS LYONS

CLERK AND TREASURER

JAMES A. BURNS

AUDITORS

THOMAS A. O'CONNOR CHARLES A. LEACH

REPORT OF PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

To the Citizens of the North Easton Village District:

GENTLEMEN:—I beg to submit the following Report for the year ending March 31, 1909.

SIDEWALKS

Appropriation	$2000	00
Expended	1621	88
Unexpended	378	12
Treasurer's report shows a further expenditure from this appropriation for unpaid bills of 1907 amounting to	$ 366	54
Unexpended balance	11	58

Itemized Statement of Work on Sidewalks

Columbus av., concreting 3845 sq. ft. at 65c. per sq. yd.	$277	70
Centre st., skimcoating 280 sq. ft. at 35c. per sq. yd....	10	$9
Centre st,, concreting 207 sq. ft. at 65c. per sq. yd.....	14	95
Day st., concreting 1112 sq. ft. at 65c. per sq. yd.....	80	31
Main st., skimcoating 402$\frac{7}{9}$ sq. ft. at 35c per sq. yd..	156	62
Sheridan st., concreting 120$4\frac{1}{2}$ sq. ft. at 65c per sq. yd.	87	00
Lincoln st., skimcoating 133$\frac{1}{3}$ sq. ft. at 35c	5	19
Williams st., concreting 285 sq. ft.....	20	60
Centre st., concreting 33 sq. ft.....	2	39
Oakland ave., concreting 57 sq. ft.....	4	12
Lincoln st., concreting 404$\frac{1}{4}$ sq. ft.....	29	20
North Main st., concreting 1614 sq. ft.....	11	657
" " " skimcoating 1335 sq. ft.....	51	92

Pleasant st., concreting 522 sq. ft	$37 70
Lincoln st., concreting 6813 sq. ft	492 05
Patching opposite school and Memorial hall 144 sq. ft.	10 40
Curb setting on Bridge and Lincoln sts. at 12c per ft.	67 14
Cutting driveway on Lincoln st	8 00
Use of tools	1 00
Filling and clearing Day st., 1 day	2 00
" " " " " 3 hrs	5 00
Repairing curbing on Centre st. and Columbus ave., 2 days	6 00
Removing old concrete and clearing Columbus ave., 5 days at $2.00	10 00
2 days at $1.50	3 00
Removing old concrete on North Main st., 6 hours	1 33
3 hours	50
Removing old concrete on Pleasant st., 2 hours	44
2 hours	33
Hauling, filling and clearing Lincoln st., 3 hrs at $3.00	1 00
6 days, 8 hours, at $2.00	13 78
4 days, 2 hours, at $1.50	6 33
30 loads of gravel	1 50
Removing old concrete on Sheridan st. 2 hours at $3.00	66
8 hours at $2.00	1 78
6 hours at $1.50	1 00
Building sidewalk near Goward's Market, 4 days 2 hrs at $3.00	12 67
17 days 8 hours at $2.00	35 78
7 days 2 hours at $1.50	10 83
19 bbls. cement at $2.00	38 00
14 loans gravel	70
Total expenditure as shown above	$1621 88

This latter piece of work for $97.78 is cheap, when the amount of labor and material put into it is considered, notwithstanding the adverse criticism of gentlemen who know as much about concrete work as they do about the canals and highways

of Mars. The average cost per square yard is only $2.66, and I have no hesitation in stating that an ordinary sidewalk of this material can be built at half this rate. Would it not be worth your while, therefore, to encourage the experiment?

Tarred concrete walks cost, at present, this money, and I leave it to yourselves to make the comparison.

"Be just and fear not. Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy God's, thy Country's and Truth's."

My investigation and experience during the past year have disclosed a wilful and extravagant waste of the district funds for a number of years previous, averaging at least $700.00 per annum. This extravagance is caused by the persistent award of non-competitive contracts to friends and supporters of the political machine at their own figure, and also by paying for, as day labor, what should evidently and properly and honestly be included in the contracts, for the simple reason that the Prudential Committee never considered it worth their while to keep an account of this item of expense; the contractor invariably furnishing his bill which is approved without further question of investigation or supervision.

This is a bad system, and you, my friends, are the victims. The foundation of this system of corruption and graft was laid several years ago when the following exclusion law was enacted for this district, viz.—"That no work of the district be let to a non-resident contractor while competent local men can perform same." A well-known politician of this town claims paternity of this monopoly-producing creature of corruption and graft, and we wish him joy with it. There is none to dispute his claim.

CURBING

Official statistics furnished by the Prudential Committee in its annual reports show that in 1897 stone curbing was fur-

nished and set at 26 cents per foot, in 1900 at 45 cents, and in 1907 and some years previous, at 90 cents per foot.

From these official reports and my own personal investigation and actual measurement, where practicable, I find that curb-setting has cost 25 cents per foot. This year, now drawing to a close, curbing, and curbing only, was, after some coaxing and persuasion, thrown open to competition among our local contractors, which resulted in a saving to the district of 100 per cent.

These official reports also show that curbing on Spooner street was commenced in 1905 and resumed in 1906, and the work so far has cost the district $670.72, with no material benefit to the residents or public.

The official reports also show that in 1897 gravel sidewalk with stone curbing was built at 36 cents per foot, and in 1906 at $1.06 per foot. This is 65 cents for material, 24 cents for setting and 17 cents per foot for gravelling. Gravelling twelve years ago was done at 10 cents per foot. See the difference.

CONCRETING

By investigation I find that concreting, in Mr. Wilson's time, was performed at 45 cents per square yard. The official report for 1897 shows the price to be 35 cents and two items at 55 cents per square yard. In 1901 concreting averaged 61 cents per square yard. In 1904 concreting cost 75 cents per square yard. In 1905, 65 cents, and this latter price seems to be the established rate under the administration of the board of strategy now and forever, and the taxpayers may go to Timbuctoo for all they care. Therefore, it is conclusively demonstrated, that a yard of sidewalk costs this district $4 51 in building.

I assert, and I challenge contradiction in this matter, that were these district works open to competition, a saving of at least one-third to the taxpayer could be easily effected. In other words, $1300 would build as much sidewalk as under present rates and system costs $2000.

NO ACCOUNTS KEPT

As an instance as to the slipshod manner in which the clerical business of the district is performed, let me invite your attention to the fact that hundreds and hundreds of dollars have been paid for curbing, for which there is no account shown or record kept, so far as my investigation goes or my inquiries determine. I find the system in this line to be somewhat like this: Deliver the material whenever convenient to Mr. Curry. Dump it here, there, or anywhere. Send in your bills whenever you think there is money available and they are O. K'd., approved. No further accounts necessary in this busy age for such important, progressive, business potentates as compose the membership of the North Easton Village District Prudential Committee, though it is only a few months ago since I was called upon, myself, to settle a dispute between the Chairman and Treasurer on a question of approving a bill for curbing. This was an unpaid bill which should have been settled in 1907. There have been other unpaid bills of 1907 sent in for approval, notably, one from Mr. Daly, contractor, which was not reported officially in Annual Report for concreting.

POLICE AND WATCHMEN

The Police are "monarchs of all they survey," and this is very little, except whenever they are requisitioned to play the double role of stable keeper and emergency cab driver for the accommodation of midnight theatre parties, or perhaps, the transportation of special police to remote sections of the town, so that imaginary yeggmen may discontinue their terrorization of the peaceful and law-abiding citizens of the Furnace and its immediate vicinity. Or, perchance, when employed by private parties to perform special police duties where refreshments are served free. These are indisputable facts. And, I charge them with being remiss in the discharge of their duties by the fact of their not discovering and reporting to the proper authority the danger to which the people were exposed from July 4 to August 10, caused by a defective sidewalk on Elm St., adjacent to the

Gilmore residence, and for which the town would be liable for heavy damages in case of an accident. Officer Healy, however, states he reported this danger, but Mr. McCarthy denies said statement.

"THE COMMON 'LARUM BELL"

To show what the force of habit produces, intermingled with a little innocent but significant imposition by a district officer, I can, myself, bear testimony to the fact that on several occasions, when passing by the silent patrol box, he had made an attempt at deceiving the public by a sham circular movement of the right hand, in order to try to show that the patrol system was in perfect order, though this particular watchman, as well as his associate, knew in his heart and soul that said patrol system was long ere this out of commission, having been struck by a bolt of Heaven's lightning, as reported by Officer Healy.

This patrol system is excellent, if only the men elected by the people, who have been given charge of it, did their duty. But while business is being conducted as it is and has been, I unhesitatingly assert, and I challenge and invite contradiction, that any further appropriation made for maintaining this system, is money wasted.

GARBLED REPORTS

I would venture to call your attention to that item of $366.54 in the opening of this report, and state that in the annual report of last year there is no memorandum made of this liability. And why? Too trivial, perhaps.

You may remember that fifty dollars was added to the appropriation for lamps, at the last annual meeting, but for what purpose, I confess, I cannot find out. It would seem as if my associates were afraid to divulge this little secret.

I have shown in this report how at least $700 is annually lost to the district by wilful waste, to use the mildest language,

but, if I were to recommend the erection of six or eight additional lamps for the people in the surburban sections of the town, the Board of Strategy which is clamoring for an electric light plant would raise such a hullabaloo as might be heard in San Francisco.

I remain, yours faithfully,

CORNELIUS LYONS.

North Easton, April 20, 1909.

District Meeting held Thursday Evening, April 30th, 1908

James F. Burke received two votes and was elected moderator.

Voted that the reports of the District Officers be laid on the table.

Result of Ballot for District Officers

	VOTES
DISTRICT CLERK	
James A. Burns,	365
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE	
Carnelius Lyons	229
John J. McCarthy	317
David J. O'Connell	177
Philip Wilde	149
Dennis H. Sweeney	137
Henry Holmes	1
DISTRICT TREASURER	
James A. Burns	365
WATER COMMISSIONER, 3 YEARS	
Oliver Ames	365
FIRE ENGINEERS	
John Baldwin, Chief	362
Fred Haulon, 1st Asst	350
Patrick J. O'Neil, 2nd Asst	345
Hjalmas Hagland	2
AUDITORS	
Charles A. Leach	364
Thomas A. O'Connor	365

Voted to raise and appropriate ($3950) three thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars for erecting, lighting and maintaining street lamps.

Voted to raise ($2000) two thousand dollars for building, repairing and concreting sidewalks. ($300) Three hundred

dollars of which is to be appropriated for the purpose of build- a sidewalk on Bridge Street.

Voted that a sidewalk be placed on Linden Street if said street is built.

Voted to raise and appropriate ($500) five hundred dollars to remove snow from sidewalks.

Voted to raise and appropriate ($1200) twelve hundred dollars for the purpose of employing and paying two watchmen and police officers to be under the control of the Prudential Committee. Voted to instruct the Prudential Committee to enforce the laws in the district.

Voted to appropriate ($200) two hundred dollars for miscellaneous expenses.

Voted to authorize the Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

Voted to raise and appropriate ($1400) one thousand four hundred dollars for the support and maintenance of the Fire Department.

Voted to accept the report of the District Officers.

Voted that a committee of seven be appointed by the chair to inquire into the feasibility of establishing a municipal electric lighting plant in the District. To report at the next annual meeting.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED ON ELECTRIC LIGHTING PLANT

Oscar Range	John M. Williams	Samuel S. Early
Daniel F. Buckley	Hugh Harlow	William H. Ames
	Jeremiah A. O'Connor	

Voted to adjourn.

JAMES A. BURNS, Clerk.

Special Meeting held Thursday Evening, June 11, 1908

James F. Burke received two votes and was elected moderator.

Voted to employ Patrick Costello as Watchman and Police Officer for the ensuing year at a salary of ($600) six hundred dollars.

Voted that a committee of ten be appointed to see if they can secure the Shoe Factory for District purposes.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

William J. Heelan	John D. Bailey	William H. Ames
Timothy J. Cramer	John Leroy	Everett E. Poole
Dennis Riordan	Fred Hanlon	Michael Lynch
	James A. Burns	

Voted to adjourn.

JAMES A. BURNS, Clerk.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr.

To amount on hand April 1st, 1908		$447 28
To Loan		3000 00
Town Treasurer on account of taxes, 1906	$53 00	
" " " " 1907	180 38	
" " " " 1908	8994 12	
		$9227 50
Interest allowed on bank balance		26 29
		$12701 07

Cr.

By Police		$1250 00
Sidewalks		1988 42
Street Lights		3909 48
Loan and Interest		3035 67
Miscellaneous, viz :		
Printing reports	$30 00	
Cesspool at Fire Station	15 00	
Repairing wires on clock system & dial	18 00	
Printing of warrants and ballots	4 75	
Posting warrants	4 00	
Stationery and postage	1 20	
District Officer's salaries	110 00	
		$182 95
Fire Department		
Coal and Oil	$154 39	
Horse hire	1 50	
Installing storage battery system	650 00	
" fire alarm box	50 00	
Sundries	102 59	
Janitor	75 00	
Salaries	360 00	
		$1393 48
Balance on hand April 1st, 1909		941 07
		$12701 07

JAMES A BURNS, Treasurer